



Samuel H. Perkins.





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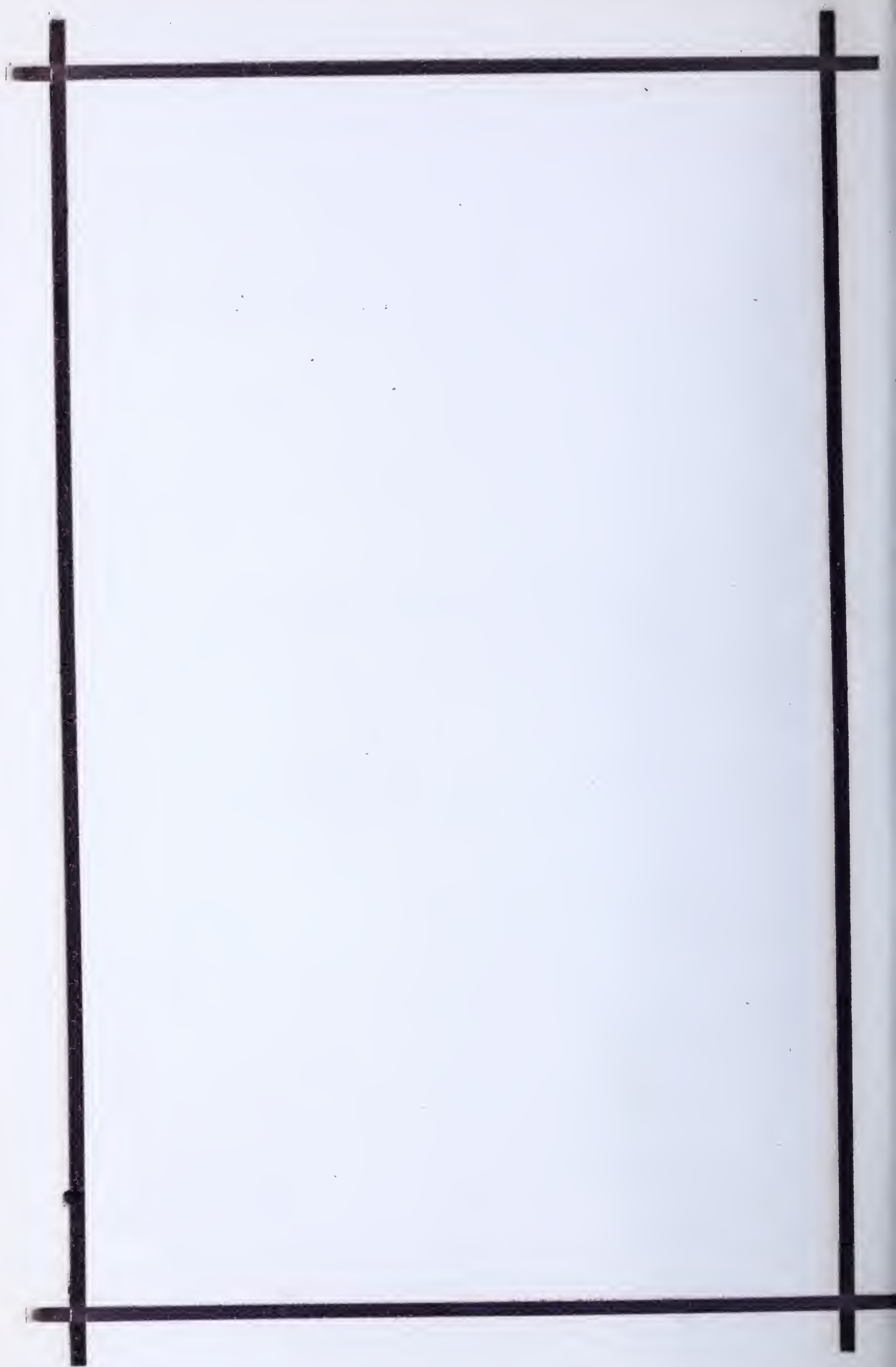
GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In Memoriam.

SAMUEL H. PERKINS,

PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

BORN, FEBRUARY 17th, 1797; DIED, MAY 22d, 1874.



Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA.



AT the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, held in the Renaissance Hall, New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia, on Thursday evening, November 5th, 1874, A. I. 2404, Companion WILLIAM H. ALLEN, at the request of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, read the following address, commemorative of the Past Grand High Priest, Companion SAMUEL H. PERKINS.

The address and resolutions were unanimously approved and adopted by the Grand Chapter.

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST:

The memory of a good man is precious. The reputation of a useful citizen is more than the inheritance of his family; it is the property of the community which he has served. The fame of a distinguished Mason is a sacred legacy to the Fraternity; and while his Masonic life may be but partially seen and known by the profane, a good and worthy Mason cannot but

be a good and worthy man, and as such he is seen and known of all men.

Our late Companion, Past Grand High Priest SAMUEL H. PERKINS, was seen and known of all men in this community. He walked among us in the light of day, with nothing to conceal, in the dignity of conscious worth, with the fearlessness of conscious integrity—"an Israelite indeed in whom was no guile." Crowned with years and honors, he came "to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in its season."

He was born at Windham, Connecticut, in 1797, graduated at Yale College at the age of twenty, studied law with that eminent lawyer and distinguished Mason, Past Grand Master Josiah Randall, and was admitted in 1820 to the Philadelphia Bar, of which he was an industrious, upright and successful member for more than half a century. He was, during many years, President of the Union Benevolent Association; President of the Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society; President of the Board of Directors of Girard College; Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society; Member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; Elder in the First Presbyterian Church; and in all these important offices his zeal and fidelity justified the confidence

which his fellow-citizens reposed in him. Faithful and affectionate in his family, genial and cheerful in social intercourse, a sincere friend, a safe counsellor, a judicious advocate, a useful citizen, a worthy Mason, a Christian gentleman, in all these relations he has been portrayed in words of just and discriminating eulogy by eloquent tongues and able pens. It only remains for us to place on record a brief memorial of his Masonic career, and especially of his honorable services as a Companion of the Royal Arch, on whom this Grand Chapter has conferred its highest honors.

In the twenty-fourth year of his age SAMUEL H. PERKINS was initiated, passed and raised in Columbia Lodge, No. 91. He was elected to the several chairs in that Lodge in regular succession, and remained a Past Master thereof until the day of his death, at the age of seventy-eight, a period of fifty years. His re-election as Treasurer of the Lodge for thirty-seven successive years gave excellent proof of the confidence of his brethren in his business accuracy and trustworthiness. He received the degree of Mark Master in Columbia Mark Lodge in 1821, and subsequently served as Master of that Mark Lodge, and for three years as its Secretary.

Through the courtesy of Companion J. Alexander Simpson, Secretary of Columbia Royal Arch Chapter,

No. 91, we learn that COMPANION PERKINS was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree, and became a member of that Chapter on the eighteenth day of August, 1824. At that time the Chapter was working under the warrant of Blue Lodge, No. 91, and conferred the Royal Arch degree only. The warrant from the Grand Chapter, to confer the degrees of Mark and Most Excellent Master, was not received till March 16, 1825.

COMPANION PERKINS was elected Scribe in 1824, King in 1825, High Priest in 1826, and re-elected High Priest in 1827, being the first who held the office for two successive terms. On the 16th of May, 1827, the degree of Royal Master was conferred on him, but the record does not show by what authority.

The rapid promotion of COMPANION PERKINS did not terminate in the subordinate Chapter. He was elected Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter, November, 1827; Grand King, November, 1828, 1829 and 1830; Grand High Priest, November, 1830 and 1831; and, having declined a third election, was chosen Grand Secretary, November, 1833, 1834 and 1835. Imbued with strong love of beneficial and philanthropic societies, he received the Orders of Christian Knighthood, and was elected Eminent Commander of St. John's Commandery, No. 4, Knights Templar, and

Eminent- Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. He also rose to the highest office of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

COMPANION PERKINS served the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in its elective offices at the time when fanaticism, in the form of political persecution under the name of anti-masonry, swept over the land like a whirlwind, and caused the hearts of many to fail. But he was among those whose courage and resolution breasted the storm in defiance of threats, then freely fulminated, of both political and social ostracism. And when an inquisitorial Legislature undertook to compel him to answer questions which they had no right to ask, he and other distinguished brethren who had been summoned to Harrisburg with him, firmly refused to answer.

The bequest of Stephen Girard to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which was \$20,000, had been multiplied nearly threefold at the time of COMPANION PERKINS' decease, and a large part of the increase had been accumulated under his direction as chairman of the trustees of that munificent bequest. This fund, consecrated to charity by the testator, has always been managed with scrupulous fidelity by the distinguished brethren to whose care it has been confided; and in

these times, when violations of trust are among the crying sins of the land, it is refreshing to record such an example of financial integrity and hold it up for imitation.

The Committee on Landmarks of the Grand Lodge is charged with the important duty of deciding questions of Masonic law and ancient usage, and none but Masons of high intelligence and official experience are appointed thereon. When this committee was first constituted, next after the name of BAYSE NEWCOMB, who was so expert in the traditional lore of the Fraternity that his opinions were accepted as authority throughout the jurisdiction, was the name of SAMUEL H. PERKINS.

Thus it appears that three numerous and powerful beneficial societies—Ancient Free Masonry, Christian Knighthood and Odd Fellowship—were honored with the membership of our deceased Companion, and they honored him in return with all the offices and dignities in their gift.

Not often does the mantle of a prophet fall upon a son. But our late Companion lived to see his son follow in his footsteps with equal pace, and wear the official robes which he had laid aside, with equal dignity.

After a long life illustrated by beneficent deeds, and adorned with amiable qualities and Christian graces, our brother, Companion and friend, put off his mortal envelope calmly and peacefully, and went up to God.

The following resolutions are offered :

Resolved, That by the decease of the late Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, Companion SAMUEL H. PERKINS, Capitular Masonry has lost a worthy representative, and this Grand Chapter one of its oldest and most venerated members.

Resolved, That we deplore his loss on account of his valuable services, not only to the various branches of Masonry, and especially to the Companions of the Royal Arch, but also to the city of his adoption, in which he was widely known as a useful citizen, an active philanthropist, a Christian gentleman, and an honest man.

Resolved, That while our Companion and Brother has joined the great company of the fathers who rest from their labors and whose works do follow them, the light which he has shed upon our fraternity shall not be extinguished, and we, his Masonic children, will strive to imitate his virtues and preserve sacredly the memorials of his devotion to the pure principles which Masonry inculcates.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter tenders its sympathies to the family of our late Companion, who mourn for a faithful husband, a loving father and a genial friend, while they are consoled by the full assurance that though his earthly tabernacle be dissolved, he has "a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Resolved, That this minute and these resolutions be printed in pamphlet form, and copies sent to the family of the deceased, to Past Grand High Priest Companion SAMUEL C. PERKINS, and to each subordinate Chapter of the jurisdiction, and that the Grand Chapter Hall be draped in mourning for the space of six months.





